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Enemies of ex-CIA man on 'hit list'

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KEVIN MULCAHY, the former CIA analyst who worked in Britain with American gunrunners Frank Terpil and Edwin Wilson, is one of the names on an apparent 'hit list' of American citizens who have fallen foul of the two men.

Two weeks ago Mulcahy told *The Observer* in Washington that Terpil had held secret meetings with the IRA in Brighton and went for a picnic on a barge near Oxford with international terrorist Carlos 'The Jackal' Ramirez.

Last week FBI, CIA and US district attorneys involved in the case were in London as part of an intensified search for the two former CIA agents. The American officials told *The Observer* they believed Terpil was now in Beirut and Wilson in Libya, and that Terpil also made frequent visits to Europe.

Law enforcement sources in Washington say the 'hit list' was found in the possession of Eugene Tafoya, a former Green Beret who has been charged with trying to assassinate Libyan student Faisal Zagallai in Colorado last year. Zagallai, an outspoken critic of the regime of Colonel Qadhafi, was shot twice in the head at close range but survived.

Investigators say they have found evidence linking Tafoya with Wilson and also with a civilian employee of the Naval Weapons Centre in China Lake, California.

Four other civilians from the centre have been under federal investigation for possible illegal transporting of sophisticated equipment from the centre to Libya.

This is thought to include a type of stun gun, known as a Taser, which incapacitates without killing its victim from a distance of 10 feet, and a binary crystal-line explosive that can be transported on commercial airliners because it consists of two separate, non-explosive ingredients.

Investigators are trying to tie up the leads involving Terpil, Wilson, the attack in Colorado and the thefts from China Lake, which included 10 Starlight nightscopes, a low-light television camera and a small remote-control helicopter.

Mulcahy, 38, a former CIA computer and communications expert, worked for Wilson and Terpil in 1976, part of the time in England.

Wilson and Terpil and a California explosives expert, Jerome Brower, were indicted in Washington for running guns to Libya in 1976 and 1977. Charges against half a dozen more suspects in the network are expected next month.

Mulcahy told *Newsweek* magazine that Terpil and Wilson's initial contract with the Libyans was for \$10 million, and it would have cost us less than \$1 million to supply.

Newsweek interviewed Wilson in his villa in Tripoli, where he denied newspaper reports that he was good friends with Qadhafi.

'I never met the man,' The CIA has recently attracted fierce criticism for its lacklustre role in the hunt for the two gunrunners. This has galvanised the agency to embark on a 'major effort' to find the men and return them for trial in America.

One option is use of the CIA's clandestine operations section, which has been strengthened under the Reagan Administration. But an international 'kidnapping' would almost certainly pose problems in American courts. Britain's role in the hunt has three main causes. First there is the traditional close co-operation between Scotland Yard, MI5 and MI6 and their American counterparts. Second, Terpil and Wilson used Britain as a convenient base for many of their crooked activities.

Third, remnants of the Terpil-Wilson organisation still exist in Britain—in London and East Anglia.

The two men shipped binary liquid explosives from America through Britain to Idi Amin in Uganda, using Amin's 'whisky specials' from Stanstead Airport.

Terpil, 41, was arrested in New York in December 1979 when he and an associate tried to sell 10,000 old Sten guns from a Manchester warehouse to New York undercover policemen posing as Latin American revolutionaries. Two months ago he was sentenced in his absence to 53 years' jail on these charges.

Terpil jumped bail last September and fled to Syria. He is now based in Damascus and makes occasional forays to Beirut. Some sources say he has also been to Libya.

He is travelling with a Filipino woman called Ruth, whom he met when she worked on the cosmetics counter of a Washington department store.